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Secret. II-27—100,000—[illegible]

(2) Home (1947) Department.

F/8 SERIES.

G.O. No. 4298

Dated 21-11-47

[Despatch Abstract.]

PASSPORT & INDIA : LANDING OF FOREIGN THROUGH PASSENGERS BY SEA DURING SHIPS STAY IN PORT : VALID NATIONAL PASSPORTS WITH TRANSIT VISAS FOR INDIA NECESSARY : LETTER FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA : COMMUNICATED.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Abstract

PASSPORT - India - Landings of foreign through passengers by sea during ship's stay in port - Valid national passports with Transit Visas for India necessary - Letter from the Government of India - Communicated.

Home Department

G.O. (Ms) No. 4298 Dated, the 21st November 1947
READ - the following:-

From the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, No. 10/2/47-Poll.(E) dated 15th November 1947.

Sub: TEMPORARY LANDING PERMITS -Grant - Through passengers by sea landing at Indian Ports during ship's stay in port.

I am directed to forward for the information of the Provincial Government, a copy of the correspondence cited in the margin* and to say that through passengers of foreign natinality proceeding by sea should normally be allowed to land in India during the period of their ship's stay at an Indian port, only if they are in possession of valid national passports and transit visas for India.

* i. Express letter No.PC.784/47 dated the 25th February 1947 from the Government of Bombay, with enclosure.
ii. Express letter No.10/2/47-Poll(E) dated the 12th August 1947 to the Government of Bombay.

Copy of Express Letter No.PC.784/47 dated 25th February 1947 from Restis Bombay to Foreign, New Delhi.

Copy of letter from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, No.2185-Fr. dated the 20th February 1947 is enclosed. In the circumstances stated the twelve foreigners in question (provided none of them is an enemy national) have been permitted to land temporarily in Bombay subject to Police precautions in anticipation of Government of India's sanction.

The Government of Bombay may please be informed whether friend neutrals and allied aliens should be permitted to land temporarily in Bombay subject to Police precautions.

Copy of letter from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay No.2185-Fr. dated the 20th February 1947.

Foriegn through passengers on board vessels touching Bombay are not permitted to land here except Americans, unless they are in possession of transit visas. This procedure has been adopted in accordance with the terms of the Government of India Letter No.17/864/40-Poll(E) dated the 7th April 1941. With return to peacetime conditions, it is suggested that all through passengers of foreign nationality may be permitted to land temporarily in Bombay in the same way as American foreigners.

The S.S."President Polk" arrived at this port yesterday and she has twelve foreingers of various nationalities on board who have not been permitted to land. The steamer will remain in Bombay for about five days and these passengers are put to considerable inconvenience by detained being on board. It is therefore for favour of orders whether they may be allowed to go ashore temporarily pending the receipt of general instructions on the subject.

Copy of letter No.10/2/47-Poll(E) dated the 12th August 1947 from the Government of India to Restis, Bombay.

Reference your express letter No.P.C.784/47 dated the 25th February 1947 to the External Affairs Department.

2. The Government of India have carefully considered the question raised by the Provincial Government, but have come to the conclusion

for the reasons stated below that through passengers of foreign nationality proceeding by sea via India should not be allowed to land in India temporarily for the duration of the Ship's stay in port unless they hold valid transit visas for India.

(i) Under the Indian Passport Rules, 1921, every foreigner arriving in India is required to be in possession of a valid passport and a visa or transit visa before he can enter India.

(ii) Transit visas for India will ordinarily be granted without prior reference to the Government of India by the Passport Control Authorities board when the revised visa instructions (vide Home Department Letter No.10/16/45-Poll(E) dated the 26th July 1947) come into force, and

(iii) in exceptional cases, exemption from the provision of rule 3 of the Indian Passport Rules, 1921, can be granted. Necessary power to do this in individual cases has been delegated to the Provincial Government in the Home Department Notification No.5[illegible]/21, 56 Poll(E) dated the 10th January 1940.

ORDER:

Communicated to the Commissioner of Police, Madras, and to all District Magistrates.

(By Order of His Excellency the Governor)

M. GOPAL MENON
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Police, Madras.
To all District Magistrates.
Copy to the Superintendent of Police, Special Branch, C.I.D., Madras.
Copy to the Public (Military) Department.

/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office, Egmore.
29/12/53 29/12